

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING AND GREEN TEAM MEETING
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 - 7:30 pm – Virtual Meeting

Members present: John Lippert, Erica Hernandez, Ron Bjorkland, Rhema Bjorkland, Xochitl Zamora-Thompson, Larry Hilliard, Michael Hartman, Jane Young, Steve Skolnik
Liaisons: Luisa Robles (staff liaison). Colin Byrd (council liaison).
Visitors: Tom Taylor, Ben Fischler, Bill Orleans, Katy Pape
Excused Absences: Matt Dirksen
Absent: Josh Hamlin, William Manico

Call to order: 7:32 pm

1. Earth Day Events. Jane, John and Luisa are doing an environmental presentation on the environmental impact of food waste and food production, and next month one on EVs. Kevin will be planting milkweed at Buddy Attick Park. Xochi might plan something else. The environmental talk in June will be on pollinators.
Please submit your Earth Day event information [here](#).
2. Roosevelt Democratic Club invitation to speak on Sunday, April 18, at 3 pm. Katy Pape has heard of different Green Teams and they would like to hear from as many of them as possible on the work they are doing: Zero Waste, Pollinators, Food and the Environment, EV chargers and survey, Simplicity... An overview and letting people know how they can get involved. What is going on locally. Several speakers would be welcome and could meet the Roosevelt Club members.
Erica—pollinators
Possibly Steve on solar
John and Jane
Tom Taylor—Zero Waste
3. Updates from **Sustainability Framework** / Green Team Circles.
 - a. **Energy** / Solar Circle – Monthly update on the City’s solar farm, Steve attended with Standard Solar. Project is moving forward. Environmental requirements for the site: engineering firm is doing an inventory of the trees and laying out the solar arrays. There are 3 clients that they contracted on this site, the City being one of them. Long development time frame. The PTO (permission to operate) in the spring of 2022. This project will offset nearly 100 % of the City’s municipal electricity usage.
CRC commercial manages Green Ridge House. They need a new roof and the project manager wants to install solar panels. Steve is volunteering to help them with that. The roof is good for solar, the house load is enough to warrant panels. There is a meeting this Friday with David Moran and Jim Sterling to go over the project. Could offset 40% of their house load.
New Group (Circle) is the EVIPG (Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning Group) with some members of the Advisory Planning board. Next meeting this Friday evening.

- b. **Food Systems / Sustainable Land care Circle.**
- c. **Green Building.**
- d. **Land Use / - Pollinator proposal (Mayor's pledge).** Xochitl and Erica have taken the lead. Xochitl explained how they put together the document. John will let people read the document for a couple of days. Then people can vote to present to Council. Mayor Bird is at the meeting and says he will approve it.

Ben Fischler brought up a petition for a sports group to install an artificial turf as a playing field; it was brought to PRAB. Let's talk to Maggie Cahalan about it as she has done research on this topic.

Kathy Michaels and Susan Stewart presented a while back on natural surfaces vs petroleum derivative.

Steve quoted Lola (as PRAB): increased lower back injuries, ankles, modern stuff uses sand and crumb rubber as a base, and crumb rubber is problematic for the environment. Ben says that coconut husks can be used as a base. There was a bill on the MD legislation but it was taken down.

John Lippert will contact the Mayor to have the issue referred to Council.

Bill Orleans shared that the Royal Farms meeting was yesterday. Council also visited the old nursing home site and the old armory site. Questions about Beltway Plaza. Bill encourages Green ACES and APB to work together on new development projects. Also, a vision for Greenbelt Road.

- e. **Transportation.** Discuss the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI). Should we make a recommendation to City Council to send a letter of support. Modeled on REGGI, a successful cap and invest program, encourages power plants to become greener.

TCI looks at those who are going to be affected the most and areas that need it the most.

Deadline for comments on the DEIS for MagLev is May 24. It appears that Ben Cardin is in support. We are asking our members to write letters to him, Pete Buttigieg, etc. What about MARC and Ocela? AMTRAK?

- f. **Local Economies - Time Bank Circle.** Planning meeting in April. Doing OK. Safe distanced trades. John Campanile and Erica Ginsberg wrote an article in the *News Review*.
- g. **Waste Management / Zero Waste Circle.** New 3-bin system was placed in the AFC for Hots composting, 10 families to participate plus the NDC and the Food COOP.

GHI members around 23 Ridge want to organize to put in another 3-bin system for hot composting. Meeting on Thursday, April 1, at 7:45 pm. Also to include a food forest.

Green TEams enviro series is this Sunday, will talk about environmental impact of food waste and food production.

- h. **Water / Stream -**

4. Events:

- a. ZW Meeting 5th Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 pm
- b. Sustainable Maryland Certified - Leadership Training on Equity was on March 16. This document was shared by Alexis Goggans, who has been consulting with the Sustainable States Network of which SMC is a part. Lots of information in there, if you are interested.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RaqVZhopufs8BTR9QH5yjofKjZCbAQ9x/view>

- c. Enviro series of GCC and City Green Team on the 4th Sunday of the month. Next one will be March 28; topic: Food and the Environment. AND April 25; topic: Electric Vehicles.
- d. June 5—13 is Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week promoting outdoor activities.
- e. John wants to ask for a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation to purchase a CO2 heat water heater for GHI so they can test it. CO2 is a better refrigerant, less dangerous. Has an outdoor unit connected to the tank on the interior (like a ductless heat pump). Only masonry homes (brick and block) could use conventional integral heat pump water heaters as the water heater in the frames is inside a closet under the stairs (not enough air space). Erica says the split system heat pump water heater is made by Sanco2: <https://www.smallplanetsupply.com/sanc02>. It can also give 8-10K BTU of home space heating. Erica has been looking into this.

Adjournment: 9:00 pm